

### **STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-16 are pending.

Claims 1-8 stand allowed.

Claims 9-16 stand rejected.

Claims 9-16 have been cancelled herein without prejudice.

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Applicant acknowledges allowance of claims 1-8.

Claims 9-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosoi et al. (EP 0888004A2) in view of Koji (JP 11-194745). Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's assertion, and solely for expediting allowance of the present application, Applicant has cancelled claims 9-16, without prejudice, and reserves the right to present claims 9-16 for examination at a later date.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is in condition for allowance.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the

applicant's attorney at (215) 542-5824, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward J. Howard', written over a horizontal line.

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